(e) the steps taken by Government to inquire into the matter and to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (e) The Food Corporation of India (FCI) purchases B. Twill jute bags by placement of indents on Directorate General of Supply & Disposals, Calcutta at prices fixed by the Jute Commissioner (Ministry of Textiles), Calcutta, under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 who allots the quantities of jute bags to be supplied by various jute mills. No open tender enquiry is floated by FCI for purchase of jute bags. The jute bags are transported by the supplier mills to the consignee destinations normally by rail on frieght pre-paid basis. Railway freight is reimbursed by FCI along with cost of the bills.

Since 100 per cent packaging of foodgrains in jute packaging is Compulsory under the Jute Packaging Material (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987, no plastic bags are procured by FCI procurement of foodgrains.

Commissioner for women's rights

4128. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be peased to state:

(a) the existing schemes and those on anvil aimed at improving the lot of women;

(b) whether the National Commission for women has started functioning and what is the scope of its activities

(c) whether there is any proposal to appoint a Commissioner for Women's Rights; and

(d) if so, when this appointment is likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE): (a) to (d) The Department of Women and Child Development is implementing the following schemes which aim at improving the lot of women;

1. Construction/Expansion of Hostel Building for Working Women with a Day Care Centre;
2. Support to Training-cum-Employment Programme for Women (STEP);
3. Scheme for the Setting up of Women's Development Corporations;
4. Sport Stay Homes for Women and Girls;
5. Setting up Women's Training Centres/Institutions for Rehabilitation of Women in Distress;
6. Setting up of Employment and Income Generating Training-cum-Employment-cum-Production Units for Women (NORAD);
7. Education Work for Prevention of Atrocities on Women;
8. Condensed Courses of Education and Vocational Training Programmes for Women;
9. Socio-Economic Programme, and
10. Awareness Generation Projects;

Some new initiatives for the development of Women are on the anvil. These include the Integrated programme for the development of women, the establishment of a National Credit Fund for Women and the setting up of the Office of the Commissioner for Women's Rights.

The Government has already set up the National Commission for Women on 31.1.1992.

The main objectives of the Commission are to investigate, examine and review all matters relating to the safeguards provided for Women under the constitution and other laws for their effective implementation and necessary amendments and to function as an agency to

fulfil the surveillance functions as well as to facilitate redressal of grievances of women arising out of the unequal status of women obtaining in every sphere of life.

Discover India tours for children of NRIS

4129. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to organise "Discover India" tours for children of NRIs so as to improve their cultural moorings and their knowledge of the rich heritage of their mother country; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the scheme and response of the NRIs to the same?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is planned to conduct a three week tour starting from the last week of June, 1992 to various places of historical interest in India, scientific/technological establishments and educational institutions located in those places. It will be financial by the NRI parents desirous of sending their children for the tour. The programme has generated interest among the NRIs located in New York, Chicago, London and Hongkong.

Representation by AIKVTA

4130. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI:
SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN:
SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had received a third Open Letter addressed to the Prime Minister from All India Kendriya Vidyalaya Teachers Association; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) The Sangathan has received the letter.

(b) The Presidents of the different employees' associations including All India Kendriya Vidyalaya Teachers' Association have for the first time now been included in the Sangathan and its Board of Governors and the Joint Consultative Machinery has also been activated. The Government is always prepared to discuss with the employees any genuine grievance so that reasonable solutions could be arrived at.

Affairs on KVs

4131. SHRI MISA R. GANESAN:
SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN:
SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to order a probe into the affairs of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No circumstances requiring such a probe have come to notice.

Misappropriation of funds

4132. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that lot of funds have been misappropriated in the name of data entry on project called population of India undertaken by the Anthropological Survey of India; and